

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 22353 060411Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01
/090 W

-----116511 060418Z /14

O 060356Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8868
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS BANGKOK 22353

USICA

FOR: PGM/PPF EA PGM/RC VOA/PF PGM/P PGM/RM/RR

EO 11652: NA
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-ASEAN MEETING

1. COVERAGE OF ASEAN MEETING IN SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY MORNING
PAPERS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED FROM FRIDAY NIGHT/SATURDAY MORNING
COVERAGE.

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WORLD SATURDAY NIGHT HAD HEAD OVER UPI STORY
PAGE ONE "US TO BOOST ASEAN INVESTMENTS" WITH PHOTO SECRETARY VANCE.
SATURDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS TIMES HAS LARGE PAGE ONE HEAD "NO JOY
ON TRADE AT U.S.-ASEAN MEET" FOLLOWED BY AP STORY. PICTURE SHOWS
FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. ON PAGE SEVEN
HAS PHOTO UPADIT MEETING WITH JOHN GLENN, AND AFP STORY HEADED "NO
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HIGH HOPES FOR MARCOS."

3. SUNDAY BANGKOK POST HAS UPI STORY HEADED: "ASEAN MEET IRONS OUT
MAJOR SNAGS." ON PAGE 3 HAS REUTER STORY "U.S. PRESS TAKEN TO
TASK" DATED JAKARTA WHERE ANTARA NEWS AGENCY COMPLAINS ABOUT
SPARSE COVERAGE ASEAN MEETING IN U.S. PRESS.

4. SUNDAY NATION HAS PAGE ONE HEAD: "U.S. OFFERS NO NEW TRADE CONCESSIONS TO ASEAN" OVER WIRE SERVICE STORY. PICTURE SOURCED AP SHOWS UPADIT WITH BLUMENTHAL.

5. THAI LANGUAGE PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUED VERY SPARSE. SIAM RATH SATURDAY NIGHT HAD WIRE SERVICE REPORTS PAGE ONE ON RAJARATNAM, ROMULO, AND VANCE OPENING SPEECHES. SUNDAY DAILY TIME AND BAN MUANG HAD EXACTLY SAME REPORTS ON PAGES TWO AND THREE, RESPECTIVELY.

6. CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS HAD SOMEWHAT GREATER COVERAGE. SATURDAY NIGHT THAI SHANG JIT PAO HAD AP STORY PAGE FOUR: "U.S. REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR COMMON FUND TO STABILIZE WORLD COMMODITY PRICES". SUNDAY HSING HSIAO JIT PAO AND CHUNG HUA JIT PAO HAVE SAME STORY PAGE ONE. SUNDAY HSING CHUNG YUAN PAO CARRIES FIRST PART ICA-PROVIDED FINAL COMMUNIQUE (EPF-84) ON PAGE ONE WHILE CHUNG HUA JIT PAO FRONTPAGES SUMMARY OF SAME AND CHUNG HUA JIT PAO HAS AFP SUMMARY OF SAME STATEMENT ON PAGE ONE. HSING CHUNG YUAN PAO, TUNG NAN JIT PAO, AND SHIH CHIEH JIT PAO ALL FRONTPAGE AFP STORY "U.S. ANNOUNCES A SERIES OF MEASURES OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR ASEAN." HSING HSIAO JIT PAO HAS TWO AP PHOTOS PAGE TWO SHOWING UPADIT SPEAKING AT WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE AND AT RECEPTION WITH BLUMENTHAL. SHIH CHIEH JIT PAO HAS FORMER PHOTO PAGE FOUR.

7. PRO-PEKING HSIN CHUNG YUAN PAO, IN A COMMENTARY, SAYS THAT ASEAN'S "OLD FRIEND", THE UNITED STATES, WITHDREW ITS FORCES FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AREA THREE YEARS AGO BECAUSE THEY WERE UNWELCOME. NOW, A "NEW FRIEND" HAS APPEARED TALKING ABOUT A SYSTEM OF ASIAN SECURITY WHICH IS AIMED AT DISBANDING ASEAN. EDIT SAYS U.S.-ASEAN CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND THIS PROVES THE FIVE ASEAN NATIONS STILL LIKE AND TRUST THEIR "OLD FRIEND". PAPER BELIEVES US WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE MORE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR ASEAN IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE ORGANIZATION FROM FALLING INTO ITS ADVERSARY'S TRAP.

8. HSING HSIAO JIT PAO IN EDITORIAL SAYS THAT ASEAN CONFERENCE ENDED UP DISCUSSING GOOD QUOTA OF POLITICAL MATTERS DESPITE FACT THAT ADVANCE BILLING HAD IT AS ECONOMIC CONFERENCE. SAYS THAT THIS POLITICAL TONE WAS NATURAL RESULT OF AN "ASIAN CUBA" WHICH IS SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN REGION. EDIT SAYS THAT U.S., WHILE NOT WISHING TO PLAY ROLE OF WORLD'S POLICEMAN ANY LONGER, STILL CONSIDERS ITSELF A PACIFIC POWER, AND AS SUCH CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO ASEAN GIVEN ITS VITALLY STRATEGIC POSITION.

9. THAI HUA PAO IN WEEKLY NEWS COMMENTARY CALLS THE ASEAN MEET A "GREAT EVENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION." CALLS PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRAISE OF ASEAN DEVOTION TO PEACE WELCOME.

SAYS THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AREA IS BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE
PEACE AND CALLS CARTER'S STATEMENT A RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT.
MCGINLEY

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TAGS: PORG, SOPN, EGEN, TH, ASEAN
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